

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-69. Cancelled.

70. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103 wherein said article is a diaper.

71. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103, wherein the surface area defined by the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 40% of the surface area of said article.

72. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103 wherein the surface area defined by the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 30% of the surface area of said article.

73. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103 wherein the liner is stretchable in at least one direction.

74. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 73 wherein the outer cover is stretchable in said at least one direction.

75. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103, wherein the liner is stretchable generally laterally of said article.

76. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner is stretchable generally longitudinally and laterally of said article.

77. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner is extensible generally laterally of said article.

78. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of lateral elongation of about 20 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

79. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of lateral elongation of about 25 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

80. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending laterally of said article, said liner being capable of substantially permanent elongation laterally of said article whereby the width of said liner is increased at least about 10 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

81. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 75 wherein the liner has a width extending

laterally of said article, said liner being capable of substantially permanent elongation laterally of said article whereby the width of said liner is increased at least about 20 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said liner.

82. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 73 wherein the liner is generally elastic in said at least one direction.

83. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 107, wherein the outer cover is stretchable along the entire width of the outer cover.

84. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein said outer cover is capable of lateral elongation of about 10 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

85. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein said outer cover is capable of lateral elongation of about 20 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

86. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein said outer cover is capable of lateral elongation of about 30 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of

about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

87. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein said outer cover is capable of lateral elongation of about 40 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

88. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein said outer cover is capable of substantially permanent elongation laterally of said article whereby the width of said outer cover is increased at least about 17 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said outer cover.

89. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein said outer cover is capable of substantially permanent elongation laterally of said article whereby the width of said outer cover is increased at least about 30 percent when the article is subjected to a laterally directed tensile force of about 100 gmf per inch (per 2.54 cm) of width of said article.

90. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83 wherein the outer cover comprises a necked laminate having at least one layer of a non-elastic neckable material and at least one layer of a non-elastic film.

91. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 83, wherein the outer cover is elastic.

92. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 91, wherein the outer cover is elastic at least laterally of the article.

93. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 91 wherein the outer cover comprises a polypropylene spunbond laminated with styrene-isoprene-styrene-based adhesive.

94. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103 wherein the absorbent core is secured to at least one of said liner and said outer cover.

95. Cancelled.

96. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 104 wherein said article is a diaper.

97. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 104, wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 40% of the surface area of the back half of said article.

98. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 104 wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 30% of the surface area of the back half of said article.

99. Cancelled.

100. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 106 wherein said article is a diaper.

101. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 106, wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 40% of the surface area of the front half of said article.

102. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 106 wherein the surface area defined by said portion of the absorbent core is less than or equal to about 30% of the surface area of the front half of said article.

103. (Withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis, and a lateral centerline generally defining longitudinal front and back halves of the article, said article comprising:

a liner adapted for contiguous relationship with a wearer's body;

an outer cover in generally opposed relationship with the liner, at least one of said liner and said outer cover being stretchable in at least one direction, the article having a surface area defined at least in part by at least one of said liner and said outer cover; and

an absorbent core disposed between the liner and the outer cover and having a surface area which is less than about 50% of the surface area of the article, the absorbent core lying on the lateral centerline and extending longitudinally farther

from said centerline into the front half of the article than into the back half of the article.

104. (Withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 103 wherein said back half of the article has a surface area and at least a portion of the absorbent core extends into the back half of the article, said portion of the absorbent core having a surface area which is less than about 50% of the surface area of the back half of said article.

105. Cancelled.

106. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 107 wherein said front half of the article has a surface area and at least a portion of the absorbent core extends into the front half of the article, said portion of the absorbent core having a surface area which is less than about 50% of the surface area of the front half of said article.

107. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis, and a lateral centerline generally defining longitudinal front and back regions of the article, said article having a front end, ~~and~~ a back end, a front portion, a back portion, and a middle portion interconnecting the front and back portions, said article comprising:

a liner adapted for contiguous relationship with a wearer's body;

an outer cover in generally opposed relationship with the liner, the outer cover having a length and a width and being stretchable along substantially the entire length of the outer cover;

the article having a surface area defined at least in part by said outer cover; and

an absorbent core disposed between the liner and the outer cover and having a front edge, a back edge, and a surface area which is less than about 50% of the surface area of the article, the absorbent core being disposed at least in said front portion and said middle portion of the article, the surface area of the absorbent core being greater in said front portion of the article than in said back portion and said middle portion, the surface area of the absorbent core being greater in said middle portion of the article than in said back portion, the front edge of the absorbent core being in a closer proximity to the front end of the article than the back edge of the absorbent core is to the back end of the article, at least a portion of the absorbent core being bonded to said outer cover.

108. (Previously presented) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 107 wherein the liner has a length and a width, said liner being stretchable along substantially the entire length of the liner.

109. (Currently amended) A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis, and a lateral centerline generally defining longitudinal front and back regions of the article, said article having a front end, ~~and~~ a back end, a front portion, a back portion, and a middle portion interconnecting the front and back portions, ~~and~~ the article comprising:

a liner adapted for contiguous relationship with a wearer's body, the liner having a length and a width and being stretchable along substantially the entire length of the liner;



an outer cover in generally opposed relationship with the liner;

the article having a surface area defined at least in part by said liner; and

an absorbent core disposed between the liner and the outer cover and having a front edge, a back edge, and a surface area which is less than about 50% of the surface area of the article, the absorbent core being disposed at least in said front portion and said middle portion of the article, the surface area of the absorbent core being greater in said front portion of the article than in said back portion and said middle portion, the surface area of the absorbent core being greater in said middle portion of the article than in said back portion, the front edge of the absorbent core being in a closer proximity to the front end of the article than the back edge of the absorbent core is to the back end of the article, at least a portion of the absorbent core being bonded to said liner.

110. (Previously presented) A disposable absorbent article as set forth in claim 108 wherein said outer cover has a length and a width, said outer cover being stretchable along substantially the entire length of the outer cover.

111. (Previously presented) A disposable absorbent article having a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis, and a lateral centerline generally defining longitudinal front and back regions of the article, said article having a front end, ~~and~~ a back end, a front portion, a back portion, and a middle portion interconnecting the front and back portions, ~~and the article~~ comprising:

a liner adapted for contiguous relationship with a wearer's body;

an outer cover in generally opposed relationship with the liner, at least one of said liner and said outer cover being stretchable in at least one direction, the article having a surface area defined at least in part by at least one of said liner and said outer cover; and

an absorbent core disposed between the liner and the outer cover and having a front edge, a back edge, and a surface area which is less than about 50% of the surface area of the article, the absorbent core being disposed at least in said front portion and said middle portion of the article, the surface area of the absorbent core being greater in said front portion of the article than in said back portion and said middle portion, the surface area of the absorbent core being greater in said middle portion of the article than in said back portion, the front edge of the absorbent core being in a closer proximity to the front end of the article than the back edge of the absorbent core is to the back end of the article, said at least one of said liner and said outer cover extending beyond the front and back edges of the absorbent core and being stretchable adjacent said front and back edges.